Salmonid Acoustic Tracking Programme Coordinator

Job Description

Job Title: Acoustic Tracking Programme Coordinator
Organisation: Atlantic Salmon Trust
Reporting to: Executive Director & Research Director

The AST are seeking to employ a highly motivated programme coordinator with excellent people, organisation and presentation skills to head up their Salmonid Acoustic Tracking Programme. The job will involve liaising with organisations currently planning or undertaking Acoustic Tracking projects to facilitate maximising resources (financial and technical), coordination between projects and taking an overview of acoustic tracking projects to assist in providing a UK, and Ireland, picture of smolt migration and mortality pinch points.

1. Job Purpose:

To develop and implement the Atlantic Salmon Trust’s (AST) core Salmonid Acoustic Tracking Programme.

2. The AST Acoustic Tracking Programme:

In order to gain a clear understanding of what is happening to Atlantic salmon smolts during their early migration phase, the AST is developing an Acoustic Tracking Programme to facilitate tracking projects for smolts to monitor their progress towards the open ocean. These tracking projects in the UK and Ireland will form part of SALSEA Track, an international Programme coordinated by NASCO’s International Atlantic Salmon Research Board. As well as salmon the programme will also involve partners tracking the movement of sea trout smolts, finnock and adults in coastal waters and estuaries to improve knowledge on sea trout movement and behaviour.

Benefits of the Salmonid Acoustic Tracking Programme will include:

- Transferring knowledge and experience.
- Acting as a repository of advice and knowledge for those wishing to establish salmon or sea trout acoustic tracking projects.
- Sharing data to generate a national picture of smolt migration and mortality pinch points.
- Co-operation with projects monitoring other iconic marine species such as whales, dolphins and sharks.
- Cost saving on purchase of equipment.
- Shared use of receiver arrays.

3. Role of the Acoustic Tracking Programme Coordinator:

The Acoustic Tracking Programme Coordinator will develop the AST Salmonid Acoustic Tracking Programme and build relationships with national partners to generate an overview of salmon and sea trout smolt migration and survival patterns using acoustic tracking. The Coordinator will also work with national and international partners, including through NASCO’s International Atlantic Salmon Research Board, to facilitate tracking research from the lower rivers and coastal areas progressively outwards in the marine environment.

Main Duties & Responsibilities:

1. Manage and coordinate the development and delivery of the AST Acoustic Tracking Programme.

2. Create a database of acoustic telemetry tracking projects for salmon and sea trout, initially in the UK and Ireland and subsequently, internationally, liaising with international partners such as the Atlantic Salmon Federation and International Atlantic Salmon Research Board.

3. Maintain a data-bank of acoustic tracking research methodologies and technology.

4. Liaise with organisations conducting or wishing to carry out acoustic tracking research, in order to:
   a. Identify opportunities for partnerships, cooperative working and joint projects
   b. Transfer knowledge and experience
   c. Develop links with national and international partners, including through NASCO’s International Atlantic Salmon Research Board
   d. Develop links with organisations using acoustic tracking to monitor other species.

5. Collect and review the results of salmonid acoustic tracking projects in the UK and Ireland. Identify geographically distinct trends in migration patterns so as to produce an overview of salmon and sea trout smolt mortality rates for the British Isles.

6. Take a leading role in identifying sources of funding for acoustic tracking projects, transfer such information to local projects, and assist in the development of proposals to secure funding.

7. Assist the AST with fundraising for the Acoustic Tracking Programme, with the aim of establishing a fund to support research calls in this area of research.
8. Present the work of the Programme at international and national conferences, external workshops, internal Board meetings and meetings of the AST’s Honorary Scientific Advisory Committee.

9. Liaise with suppliers of acoustic tracking equipment to identify opportunities for bulk purchasing or sharing of equipment.

10. Although initially focusing on acoustic tracking this post may evolve to look at alternative tracking methods for salmon and sea trout.

Qualifications & Experience:

1. Strong background in marine / freshwater fisheries science. An advanced level degree in relevant subject is desirable.

2. Up-to-date theoretical and practical knowledge in areas related to salmonid research and acoustic tracking.

3. Experience in coordinating and / or managing projects involving a network of partners: Government, Academic and NGO.

4. Track record of developing projects and securing funding.

5. Proven ability to deliver quality outputs in a timely and efficient manner.

6. Excellent communication skills and experience communicating science outputs to a lay audience.

7. Track record of presentation and publication of research results.

Personal Attributes:

1. Enthusiasm, energy, willingness, positivity.

2. Adaptable and proactive with a willingness to combine self-management and self-support (including planning of work assignments) and ability to work within a small team.

3. Ability to develop and manage relationships with internal and external partners.

4. Ability to be flexible, hands-on and practical while also being able to deliver academic level research reports.

5. Excellent written and oral communication skills
Employment Details:
Location: The AST Office is located 11 Rutland Square, Edinburgh. Other locations would be considered.
Salary: £25,000 - £30,000 plus pension
Working Hours: 35 hours per week; occasional out of hours working
Contract: 2 year fixed term contract, subject to review and renewal after 1st year
Holiday: 28 days per calendar year including bank and public holidays

To Apply for this Role:
Please send a covering letter and CV by email to director@atlanticsalmontrust.org

Closing Date for Applications:
Friday 17th February 2017